

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LUSAKA 3703

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

LUSAKA, DECEMBER 6 -- ZAMBIA PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA SAYS HIS COUNTRY IS WITHDRAWING ITS SUPPORT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA BUT AT THE SAME TIME WILL NOT DO ANYTHING TO DISCOURAGE THOSE BACKING THE PROPOSALS.

HE TOLD A CROWDED NEWS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY ATTENDED BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND ZAMBIA LEADERS THAT ZAMBIA WILL NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THOSE WHO FIRMLY BELIEVE IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE AS AN ANSWER "TO EVERYTHING."

"WE NOW SAY THAT WE WITHDRAW FROM THE DEBATE. LET THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS GO AHEAD. BUT LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY MISHAP, WE WILL NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. ZAMBIA WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN TRYING TO RESCUE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN MISSION," SAID DR. KAUNDA.

A STATEMENT RELEASED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE OUTLINING ZAMBIA'S POSITION AND ITS INSISTENCE THAT ELECTIONS BE UNCLASSIFIED

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DELAYED IN RHODESIA UNTIL POWER HAS BEEN HANDED DIRECTLY TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, STATED THAT ZAMBIA'S MAIN FEAR IS THAT UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT AGENTS OF RHODESIA PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH WILL USE DISRUPTIVE TACTICS WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE CANCELLATION OR EVEN POSTPONEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE WHITE-RULED BRITISH COLONY.

DR. KAUNDA, WHO BITTERLY ATTACKED BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN FOR HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE RECENT KILLING OF A REPORTED 1,200 PERSONS IN MOZAMBIQUE BY RHODESIAN TROOPS, CHARGED THAT A DELIBERATE IMPRESSION IS BEING CREATED IN LONDON AND OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS THAT ZAMBIA IS AGAINST THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

IN THIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS HE DENIED THIS AND SAID THAT HE WAS AGAINST ANY FORMULA THAT SOUGHT TO MAKE MR. SMITH "A CENTRAL AUTHORITY".

"THIS IS WHY WE DO NOT THINK THAT ELECTIONS UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE SHOULD COME BEFORE INDEPENDENCE," SAID DR. KAUNDA, WHO ADDED THAT ZAMBIA'S POSITION WAS TO LET THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE INDEPENDENCE BY JUNE 1978, AND NOT LATER.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED ON THE BASIS OF HIS PROPOSAL THAT ELECTIONS BE HELD UP UNTIL AFTER POWER AND INDEPENDENCE HAVE BEEN PASSED ON TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALLIANCE OF NATIONALISTS JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE.

HE EXPLAINED: "BUT, UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM AND AGENTS OF THE REBELS, TRAINED IN THE TACTICS OF DISRUPTING
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MEETINGS OF THEIR OPPONENTS, WILL USE THEIR TACTICS AND THIS WILL RESULT IN THE CANCELLATION AND POSSIBLE POSTPONE-
MENT OF INDEPENDENCE."

IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, THE ZAMBIAN LEADER DECLARED:
"WE NOW BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR CASE. WE HAVE
WARNED EVERYDAY ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTION.

"WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP, BUT WE CAN ONLY WISH THOSE WHO
ARE INVOLVED GOOD LUCK."

IN THE MEANTIME HE SAID, THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE MUST
KNOW THAT IF THEY STOP FIGHTING, INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT
COME "NEXT YEAR AND POSSIBLY NOT EVEN THE YEAR AFTER."

DR. KAUNDA SAID HOWEVER, THE FRONTLINE STATES, TANZANIA,
ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND BOTSWANA, "ARE VERY MUCH
ALIVE" AND ZAMBIA WOULD CONSIDER TAKING PART IN
DEBATING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS IF MAJOR CHANGES
WERE MADE TO THE PRESENT PROPOSALS. HE DID NOT NAME
THEM.

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THE ZAMBIAN LEAR ALSO CONFIRMED THE DEATHS OF 13
NATIONALIST PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS ON THE ZAMBIAN
SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA, IN WHICH ONLY FIVE OF
THEM (GUERRILLAS) ESCAPED. ZAMBIAN TROOPS DISPATCHED TO
THE SCENE WERE ALSO INJURED WHEN THEIR TRUCK TRAVELED
OVER A LAND-MINE.

THE PRESIDENT SAID RHODESIA'S SELOUS SCOUTS CROSSED
INTO ZAMBIA TERRITORY AND ATTACKED A PATRIOTIC FRONT
GUERRILLA CAMP "A FEW WEEKS BACK."

"WE BELIEVE THIS WAS THE NOTORIOUS SELOUS SCOUTS WHO
CROSSED INTO ZAMBIA A WEEKS BACK AND THEY KILLED
13 GUERRILLAS ON ZAMBIA SOIL AND FIVE ESCAPED. BY THE
TIME WE SENT ZAMBIAN REINFORCEMENTS TO THIS CAMP THE
ENEMY HAD LEFT AND UNFORTUNATELY OUR OWN LAND ROVERS
RAN INTO MINES WHICH THE ENEMY HAD LEFT AROUND THE
CAMP BUT WE SUFFERED ONLY INJURIES AND NO LIFE WAS
LOST."

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THIS WAS AS A RESULT OF "A STUPID
ERROR" ON THE PART OF THE GUERRILLA COMMANDER WHO HAD
CAMPED TOO NEAR THE BORDER.

MEANWHILE, THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS
TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED VETAN RHODESIAN
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NATIONALIST GEORGE NYANDORO TO LEAVE ZAMBIA WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

MR. NYANDORO, SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA'S UNITED AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (UANC), SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS GIVEN HIS MARCHING ORDERS BY ZAMBIA IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT LUSAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON HIS ARRIVAL FROM A LONDON TRIP ON DECEMBER 1.

ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, THE NATIONALIST HAS REPORTED THE MATTER TO ZAMBIAN MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS WHICH HE SAYS IS "SYMPATHETIC AND LOOKING INTO IT." BUT A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY HERE SAID HE HAD ON KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER. MR. NYANDORO HAS LIVED IN ZAMBIA SINCE 1964. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD THE TIMES THAT IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HOWEVER TOLD HIM HE HAD STAYED HERE SINCE 1964 ILLEGALLY.

THE PAPER QUOTES HIM AS SAYING HE WOULD PROBABLY GO BACK TO SALISBURY TO TAKE PART IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MR. SMITH AND THE UANC IF HE IS CALLED BACK BY BISHOP MUZOREWA. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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